



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit : 1734  
Examiner : Brenda A. Lamb  
Serial No. : 09/628,405  
Filed : August 1, 2000  
Inventors : Ichiro Tanokuchi  
          : Sachihito Iida  
Title : GAS WIPING  
      : APPARATUS  
      : AND METHOD



35811

PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No.: 1299-00

Confirmation No.: 5642

Dated: May 30, 2003

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AMENDMENT

**Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated March 26, 2003, Applicants amend the Application as follows:

In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A gas wiping apparatus comprising:

face gas wiping nozzles extending widthwise of a strip material lifted from a liquid bath and caused to travel continuously upwardly along a jet treatment path, said strip having front and back surfaces and side edges, said strip carrying bath liquid on its surfaces by pickup from said bath, said face gas wiping nozzles being adjacent to said jet treatment path and being directed to jet gases onto said front and back surfaces of said strip material, and being aimed at an impingement area on said front and back surfaces of said strip material, thereby limiting the pickup of said bath liquid carried by said front and back surfaces of said strip material;

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